

Linden Avenue Bridge (Main Street Bridge)
Spanning the Purgatoire River,
on Linden Avenue
Trinidad
Las Animas County
Colorado

HAER No. CO-54

HAER
COLO,
36-TRIN,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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(Main Street Bridge)

HAER No. CO-54

Location: Spanning the Purgatoire River, on Linden Avenue
Trinidad, Las Animas County, Colorado

UTM: 13.544500.4114000
Quad: Trinidad East

Date of Construction: 1912

Builder/Designer: Patterson-Burghardt Construction Company of Denver

Present Owner: City of Trinidad
City Hall
135 Animas Street
Trinidad, Colorado 81082

Original Use: Roadway Bridge

Present Use: Roadway Bridge

Significance: Erected by one of Colorado's more important early
bridge contracting firms, the Main Street Bridge was
one of the longest trussed vehicular crossings in the
State. Its two spans which make up the Linden Avenue
Bridge are notable as early rigid-connected examples
of the Pennsylvania through truss, a configuration
which later became something of a standard design for
highway bridges in Colorado.

Compilers: Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg
Fraserdesign
Loveland, Colorado
December 1, 1983

HISTORY

Lacking funds in early 1911 for two bridges over the Grand River at Clifton and on Main Street in Grand Junction, the Mesa County commissioners delayed building the Main Street Bridge until an appropriation could be secured from the State legislature the following year. In January 1912, bids for construction were received from eight major bridgebuilding firms. The contract was given to the Patterson-Burghardt Construction Company of Denver for \$67,215. Using steel components manufactured by Hansel-Eickcock of Chicago, the company completed the 6-span truss, the longest in the State, by the end of the year. In 1955, spring flooding damaged the existing Linden Avenue Bridge over the Purgatoire River in Trinidad. The city then acquired two spans of the Main Street Bridge in Grand Junction and erected them as a replacement. The Linden Avenue Bridge is now closed for repairs, and will be reopened by the city to accommodate light traffic.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The bridge is a rigid-connected, 14-panel steel Pennsylvania through truss.

Span number:	2	Span length:	219'0"
Overall length:	438'0"	Overall height:	35'0"
Clearance height:	12'0"	Roadway width:	20'4"
End/top chord:	2 channels with cover plate and lacing		
Bottom chord:	2 channels with batten plates		
Vertical:	2 channels with lacing		
Diagonal:	1 angle; 2 angles with batten plates		
Floor/decking:	asphalt over timber decking with timber stringers		
Substructure:	solid concrete pier; concrete cap on steel pile bent		

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Structure Inventory and Appraisal: TP-18-A. Colorado Department of Highways, Denver Colorado.

Mesa County Commissioners' Minutes: November 12, 1909 (Book 4, page 273), July 3, 1911 (Book 5, page 6), July 11, 1911 (Book 5, page 8), July 25, 1911 (Book 5, page 19), December 4, 1911 (Book 5, page 52), December 11, 1911 (Book 5, page 58), January 4, 1912 (Book 5, page 63), January 5, 1912 (Book 5, page 64), January 20, 1912 (Book 5, page 69), August 9, 1912 (Book 5 page 128), August 13, 1912 (Book 5, page 132), January 9, 1913 (Book 5, page 182), Mesa County Courthouse, Grand Junction, Colorado.

16th Biennial Report of the State Engineer, Colorado: 1911-1912. Denver: Smith-Brooks Printing Company, 1913, p. 111.

Lee Just, Trinidad City Engineer. Oral interview with Clayton Fraser, September 12, 1983.

Original plans for Main Street Bridge. Prepared by Patterson-Burghardt Construction Company, 1912.

Field Inspection by Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg, September 8, 1983.